CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT

TOPIC Toeschin Ammunition Depot

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EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

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DATE OF CONTENT

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DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 30 August 1951

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REMARKS

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1. In early February 1951, the area of the Toeschin ammunition depot was subdivided into an administrative zone run by Unit Marinkov (Zone 1) and an operational zone run by Unit Shavallo (Zone 2). (1) The two zones are separated by wire fences. Zone 1 is off limits to German civilian workers. Railroad cars dispatched to this zone are directed through Zone 2 and unloaded by Soviet personnel at the end of the spur track in the southeastern corner of Zone 2. The unloaded goods are hauled away by tractors and trucks of Unit Marinkov (2)

2. It was ascertained that Unit Shavallo is a labor company while Unit Marinkov is a combat outfit. Both units have worked independently of each other since 1945. Officers assigned included Major Tsakhashenko, (fnu), allegedly designated to replace Major Shavallo; Major Radesky, (fnu), head of the transportation section; Captain Vatin, (fnu), Major Vintsin, (fnu), and Senior Lieutenant Kalashek, (fnu), all of them leaders of labor details; Senior Lieutenant Felnen, (fnu), chief of the laboratory. Captain Colonshek, (fnu) and Senior Lieutenant Atominko, (fnu), were retransferred to the U.S.S.R. (3)

3. During the period from mid-February to mid-March 1951, shells were cleaned and greased at the ammunition depot. Special keys for the removal of fuze heads were manufactured at the workshop of the installation. Fuze head M/1 (3) 11-4,2/ was used as a model for these keys.

4. During the period from mid-February to mid-March 1951, approximately 3,600 cardboard cylinders were removed from cartridge cases 75 cm long. These cylinders, which had an outer diameter of 75 mm and were 350 mm long, contained a second cylinder 25 mm in diameter. The space between the two cylinders was filled with 300 lead balls. The lead balls were first stored at the depot and then turned over to a German non-ferrous metals collection point in Luttenwalde.

5. At noon on 12 March, a train with ammunition including 1,200 projectiles and 520 boxes arrived at the installation. The projectiles, which weighed 50 kg and were 600 mm long including the fuze heads, were packed in crates 220 mm wide and 800 mm long, and were stored in Bunker No 3. The boxes, each of which contained five 50-mm projectiles with brass cartridges, were stored in underground Bunker No 32. The boxes were 60x80 cm in size and weighed 44 kg.

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6. During four days in mid-March 1951, a total of 2,160 x 152-mm projectiles and cartridges were removed from underground Bunker No 38. Subsequently, the projectiles were again stored in the bunker while the iron cartridges, which were 750 mm long, were packed in boxes 40 x 80 cm in size and loaded into a freight car on 16 March. On the following day, the railroad car left the installation for an undetermined destination. During the loading work, [redacted] the installation was not provided with facilities for the cleaning of cartridges and [redacted] the cartridges had, therefore, to be sent away for cleaning.

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7. In mid-March, it was observed that 1,260 boxes with mortar shells were stored in seven layers of 12 x 15 boxes each in Bunker No 26. The 120-mm shells were 600 mm long, and the boxes had a weight of 48 kg.

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[redacted]

9. On 28 February, four AA guns of about 50-mm were being emplaced about 200 meters northeast of the depot. This was the first time this had been observed since 1945.

10. On 19 March, a guard detail of 120 men was quartered in the area of Unit Marinkov. Previously guards on duty at the installation were detached daily from a unit stationed in Wuensdorf. Two motor vehicles [redacted] probably engaged in courier missions, daily arrived from Wuensdorf.

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11. On 27 March, work was begun on clearing the woods in the depot area. All the workers available at the installation were assigned to this work. On 2 April, a Soviet construction unit of 50 to 60 men from Wuensdorf arrived at the ammunition depot. The unit erected barbed-wire fences about 1.5 meters high around Bunkers 31 through 41.

12. On 22 March, a Soviet commission consisting of a major general and five other officers accompanied by the depot commander thoroughly inspected all the buildings and installations of the depot.

13. Activities observed at the Toepchin ammunition depot during the period from 12 February to 7 April 1951 included:

a. 12 and 13 February: Cleaning and packing of mortar shells. The shells were loaded into a freight car the afternoon of 13 February. Subsequently eight boxcars each containing 200 x 63 kg ammunition boxes were unloaded. The boxes were hauled away by truck [redacted]

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b. 13 and 14 February: Five boxcars were each liaded with 200 to 250 x 63 kg boxes and 300 x 59 kg boxes. The boxes were filled with four shells which had grey cartridges and five shells with brass cartridges.

c. 15 February: Nine boxcars with 63 kg ammunition boxes were unloaded. A total of 260 boxes were observed in one car, 178 in another one.

d. 16 February: Cleaning and greasing of shells.

e. 17 through 22 February: Loading of ammunition boxes as reported for 13 and 14 February.

f. 26 February: Storage of ammunition in bunkers. In the afternoon 25 kg boxes with rifle ammunition were picked up by three trucks.

g. 27 February through 10 March: Storage of ammunition in bunkers.

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h. 12 March: Loading of 63 kg boxes into five boxcars. The boxes were filled with four projectiles, of about 100-mm, with brass cartridges.

i. 13 March: Storage of shells and steel cartridges in a bunker. Two shells each of 150-mm to 170-mm were packed in one wooden box. The cartridges which were also packed in boxes were stored outside the bunker and shipped out on 16 March. In the afternoon, eight boxcars were loaded with 200 x 63 kg boxes each. Each of the boxes contained four 100-mm shells with brass cartridges.

k. 14 March: Six boxcars were loaded with boxes containing shells as observed on 13 March. In the afternoon, wooden boxes lined with zinc sheet were filled with powder bags 8x10x10 cm in size. Each of the boxes was filled with 230 such bags. The content of the bags felt like pebbles. The empty boxes weighed about 30 kg, the full ones 60 to 90 kg.

l. 15 March: Greasing of cartridges of about 170-mm. The cartridges were filled with powder bags and closed by cardboard lids. Two of such cartridges were put into one box. The boxes were loaded into a boxcar.

m. 16 March: Cleaning of shells of about 170-mm. The paraffin was removed and the shells were then put into a lilac-colored liquid called sallaca. Shells were then packed, two to a box, gross weight 75 kg. In the afternoon, 400 boxes, each of them filled with two cartridges of 150-mm to 170-mm were loaded into two boxcars.

n. 17 March: Cleaning of fuzes of 100-mm to 120-mm mortar shells as reported for 16 March. Subsequently the fuzes were packed in boxes.

o. 19 March: Cleaning of fuzes. Two women cleaned a total of 400 fuses per day.

p. 20 and 21 March: Cleaning and packing of mortar shells which belonged to the fuzes cleaned on 17 and 19 March. A box filled with two such shells weighed about 45 kg. The boxes were shipped to an unknown destination.

q. 27 March through 7 April: Cleaning and packing of 100-mm to 120-mm mortar shells. The daily production target for 10 women was 200 shells. The shells were taken from a bunker at which the figure 1946 was seen. It is believed that this refers to the year in which the ammunition was made. Shells have recently been cleaned with a simple device that cuts down the time previously needed for this work to about one tenth. 25X1

[redacted]

25X1 [redacted] Comments.

(1) The report supplements previous information on the large Soviet ammunition depot in Toepchin. A sketch of Zone I of the installation and a photostat of a plan of the entire depot area was transmitted previously. [redacted] 25X1

25X1 [redacted] or detail sketch of Zone 2, see Annex 1.

(2) Except for Shavallo and Larenkov (not Marinkov), the officers mentioned are reported for the first time [redacted] 25X1

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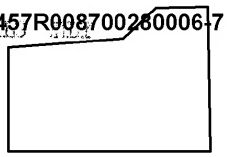

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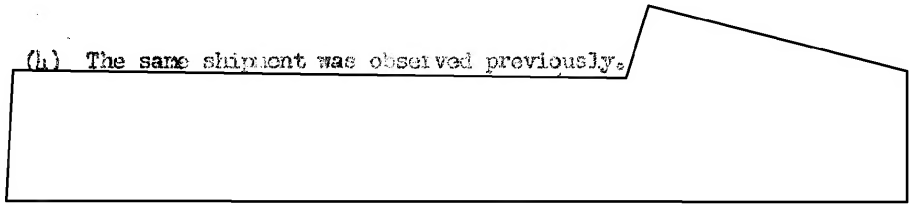
(h) The same shipment was observed previously.



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